

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM WASHINGTON  
TO DESKBY 070830Z FCO  
TELNO 1566  
OF 070015Z JUNE 89  
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING, HONG KONG  
INFO PRIORITY CANBERRA, TOKYO, MOSCOW

OUR TELNO 1551: US/CHINA  
SUMMARY

1. US ENCOURAGING AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PEKING AREA TO LEAVE CHINA AND LIKELY TO LAY ON CHARTER FLIGHTS SHORTLY. PRESIDENT BUSH'S PACKAGE OF MEASURES WELL RECEIVED IN THE PRESS AND ON THE HILL, WHERE THE PRESSURE FOR FURTHER MEASURES IS AT PRESENT UNDER CONTROL.

DETAIL

US EVACUATION PLANS

2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ON 6 JUNE THAT BAKER HAD DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PEKING AREA TO LEAVE CHINA. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE CONTACTING US CITIZENS TO PASS ON THIS ADVICE, AND TO ASSIST IN THEIR DEPARTURE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS AUTHORISED TO PERMIT VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE OF US GOVERNMENT DEPENDENTS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE CHINA. THERE WOULD BE NO REDUCTION OF EMBASSY OFFICERS OR THOSE FROM THE FOUR US CONSULATES. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT US CITIZENS IN OTHER PARTS OF CHINA MAY ALSO WISH TO LEAVE CHINA DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL SITUATION. IN THAT CASE, THEY SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, AVOID ROUTES OUT OF THE COUNTRY THAT WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO TRAVEL THROUGH PEKING. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN CHINA AS AT JANUARY 1989 WAS ROUGHLY 360 STUDENTS (270 IN PEKING), 428 EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS, 1400 OTHER AMERICANS IN PEKING, AND 8,800 IN ALL OF CHINA. STATE SAY THAT UP TO THREE QUARTERS OF EMPLOYEES OF US COMPANIES IN CHINA HAVE ALREADY LEFT.

3. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE DURING THE DAY. THEY TOLD US THIS EVENING THAT THEY ARE MOVING TOWARDS A DECISION TO BRING IN THE CHARTER AIRCRAFT POSITIONED IN JAPAN. WE ASKED WHETHER IN PRINCIPLE THERE WOULD BE ROOM ON ANY OF THESE FLIGHTS FOR BRITISH CITIZENS. THEY UNDERTOOK TO INCLUDE THIS IN CONSIDERING THE DETAILS AND URGED THAT OUR EMBASSIES IN PEKING SHOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP IN THE CLOSEST CONTACT.

REACTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

4. THE MEASURED RESPONSE ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT ON 6 JUNE HAS BEEN WIDELY ENDORSED. BOTH THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES CARRY SUPPORTIVE EDITORIALS ON 6 JUNE. THE WASHINGTON POST SAYS

THAT THE NEED TO EXPRESS QUOTE GREAT REVULSION UNQUOTE WHILST AT THE SAME TIME TAKING INTO ACCOUNT QUOTE THE MAJOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH CHINA UNQUOTE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED QUOTE WITH SOME DEFTNESS UNQUOTE. BUSH'S ACTION WAS QUOTE NOT JUST A SYMBOL OF AMERICAN DISGUST UNQUOTE BUT MAY ALSO BE TAKEN QUOTE AS A DIRECT SIGNAL TO THOSE MILITARY ELEMENTS WHICH BELIEVE THE ARMY HAS BEEN SORELY MISUSED, AND THAT THIS MISUSE THREATENS A MILITARY AND STRATEGIC CONNECTION THAT IS OF VERY GREAT VALUE TO CHINA UNQUOTE. THE NEW YORK TIMES COMMENTS THAT THE PRESIDENT QUOTE HAS RISEN ADMIRABLY TO THE OCCASION IN CHINA ... THE STEPS HE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY DO JUSTICE BOTH TO AMERICAN VALUES AND TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AND DESERVE THE WIDEST SUPPORT UNQUOTE. THE MEASURES TAKEN QUOTE WILL SEND AN UNMISTAKEABLY TOUGH MESSAGE ... WHILST PRESERVING A MUCH-NEEDED FLOW OF INFORMATION ... THE BEST WAY ... IS NOT TO TURN AMERICA'S BACK SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY ON CHINA'S CONVULSIONS ... BUT TO CONDEMN, IN THE FORCEFUL WAY THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW DONE, THE GREAT CRIME ... AND TO STAY ENGAGED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD UNQUOTE.

5. REACTIONS ON THE HILL HAVE ALSO BEEN GENERALLY FAVOURABLE. RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES CONDEMNING THE MASSACRES, COMMENDING THE MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND RESERVING THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR FURTHER STEPS IF THE REPRESSION IN CHINA CONTINUES. OUR CONTACTS ON THE HILL TELL US THAT MOST CONGRESSMEN ARE ANXIOUS NOT TO GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THERE IS STILL PRESSURE, FROM SOME IN THE HOUSE AND FROM HELMS, TO GO FURTHER IN THE DIRECTION OF SANCTIONS. BUT THERE IS ALSO A WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF CONCERTED WITH WESTERN ALLIES. THE BALANCE OF OPINION IN BOTH HOUSES AT PRESENT SEEMS TO BE IN FAVOUR OF THE MORE MEASURED APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

#### CURRENT SITUATION

6. AS WE ARE REPORTING MORE FULLY TO THE ASSESSMENT STAFF, THE US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STILL HAVE NO COLLATERAL FOR THE MEDIA REPORTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PLA ELEMENTS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE THAT SOME UNITS SUCH AS THE 38TH ARMY HAVE STAYED ALOOF FROM THE CRACKDOWN. THE CIA SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT AN ALTERNATIVE MILITARY LEADERSHIP IS EMERGING AND ARE THEREFORE WARY OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT CHINA IS ON THE VERGE OF CIVIL WAR. BUT THEY SEE NO EARLY END TO THE CONFUSION IN PEKING AND MANY OTHER CITIES. THEY HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS THAT DENG IS SERIOUSLY ILL, OR THAT LI PENG HAS BEEN WOUNDED.

ACLAND